

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL  
OF THE CITY OF PLATTSBURGH, NEW YORK**

January 5, 2012

**5:30 P.M.**

**MINUTES**

**Present:** Mayor Donald Kasprzak, Councilors Tim Carpenter (W1), Mark Tiffer (W2), George Rabideau (W3), Jim Calnon (W4), Chris Case (W5), Chris Jackson (W6)

**Absent:** None

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**1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:**

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the regular meeting of the Common Council held on December 28, 2011 are approved and placed on file among the public records of the City Clerk's Office.

By Councilor Rabideau; Seconded by Councilor Case

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Tiffer, Rabideau, Calnon, Case, Jackson

(All voted in the affirmative)

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**2. PAYROLLS OF VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS:**

**RESOLVED:** That the payrolls of the various Departments of the City of Plattsburgh for the week ending January 4, 2012 in the amount of \$ 299,496.44 are authorized and allowed and the Mayor and the City Clerk are hereby empowered and directed to sign warrants drawn on the City Chamberlain for the payment thereof.

By Councilor Case; Seconded by Councilor Calnon

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Tiffer, Rabideau, Calnon, Case, Jackson

(All voted in the affirmative)

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**3. REPORTS OF CITY OFFICES & COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- Report of Fire and Ambulance Responses for the week of December 28, 2011 – January 4, 2012
- Report from the Building Inspector's Office from December 29, 2011 - January 3, 2012
- Statement of cash receipts from the Library from December 15 – December 21, 2011

**RESOLVED:** That the reports as read are hereby ordered, received and placed on file among the public records of the City Clerk's Office.

By Councilor Rabideau; Seconded by Councilor Carpenter

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Tiffer, Rabideau, Calnon, Case, Jackson

(All voted in the affirmative)

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**4. CORRESPONDENCE & RECOMMENDATIONS FROM BOARDS: None**

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**5. AUDIT OF CLAIMS:**

**RESOLVED:** That the bills Audited by the Common Council in the amount of \$133,347.36 are authorized and allowed and the Mayor and City Clerk (where required) are hereby authorized and directed to sign warrants drawn on the City Chamberlain for the payment thereof.

By Councilor Jackson; Seconded by Councilor Case  
Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Tiffer, Rabideau, Calnon, Case, Jackson  
(All voted in the affirmative)

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**6. PERSONS ADDRESSING COUNCIL: None**

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**7. OTHER ITEMS:**

**A. RESOLVED:** In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves that Project HOME 2009-15 (Douglas - 12 Waterhouse St) be awarded to Handy Dan D Home Improvement for \$24,100 and will be funded by the 2009 HOME program.

By Councilor Tiffer; Seconded by Councilor Case  
Discussion: None  
Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Tiffer, Rabideau, Calnon, Case, Jackson  
(All voted in the affirmative)  
**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted  
Follow up Action: None

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**AMENDING THE MAYOR'S 2012 BUDGET:**

**B. Motion to amend the Mayor's 2012 Budget** to increase Information Technology Payroll Budget by \$36,000 and the General Fund Benefits Budget by \$28,935 to allow the Mayor the option to convert a Temporary Position to Permanent.

By Councilor Calnon; Seconded by Councilor Carpenter  
Discussion: None  
Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Tiffer, Rabideau, Calnon, Case, Jackson  
[Requires 4 affirmative Council votes; Mayor cannot break tie.]  
Councilors Carpenter, Tiffer, Rabideau, Calnon and Case voted in the affirmative. Councilor Jackson voted in the negative.  
**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted  
Follow up Action: None

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**C. Motion to amend the Mayor's 2012 Budget:**

- (a) To adjust the management salary schedule with a raise of \$1,250.
- (b) To increase Recreation Complex expense budget by \$35,747 to allow for the elimination

of a temporary Recreation Assistant, to be replaced by a Recreation Activity Specialist, and to increase the projected revenue by \$20,000, as an expected result of filling that position.

- (c) To increase Recreation budget to include \$25,000 for a feasibility study regarding conversion of the old beach bathhouse to a restaurant.
- (d) To reduce the Retirement Reserve by \$100,000.
- (e) To reduce the projected Aid to Municipalities by \$54,120, to reflect the expected reduction in this State Aid.
- (f) To increase the projected cost of Worker's Compensation Insurance by \$43,756 (General Fund) to reflect industry increase.
- (g) To create an Infrastructure Investment Charge beginning at 95¢ per month for a 5/8" service and graduated up, to provide for the Capitol Cost of Mead Dam repairs.

By Councilor Calnon; Seconded by Councilor Case

Discussion: None

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Tiffer, Rabideau, Calnon, Case, Jackson

[Requires 4 affirmative Council votes; Mayor cannot break tie.]

(All voted in the affirmative)

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

Follow up Action: None

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**D. Motion to amend the Mayor's 2012 Budget** to increase the 2012 use of unreserved/unappropriated General Fund Balance to \$1,842,358 (up \$242,358 from Mayor's Budget) to set the tax levy at \$9,172,916.44 with a corresponding tax rate of \$10.40/\$1,000 of assessed valuation; a change of levy of 1.01% and NO change in tax rate.

By Councilor Jackson; Seconded by Councilor Calnon

Discussion: None

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Tiffer, Rabideau, Calnon, Case, Jackson

[Requires 4 affirmative Council votes; Mayor cannot break tie.]

(All voted in the affirmative)

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

Follow up Action: None

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**E. Motion to amend the Mayor's 2012 Budget Capital Plan** to move \$350,000 for Library HVAC from 2013 to 2012.

By Councilor Carpenter; Seconded by Councilor Case

Discussion: None

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Tiffer, Rabideau, Calnon, Case, Jackson

[Requires 4 affirmative Council votes; Mayor cannot break tie.]

(All voted in the affirmative)

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

Follow up Action: None

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**F. RESOLVED:** In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves that “Westbrook 2 Reservoir Bathometric Survey” contract with CHA for the total cost of \$17,500 be approved and that the Mayor be authorized to execute all necessary documents.

By Councilor Jackson; Seconded by Councilor Rabideau

Discussion: None

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Tiffer, Rabideau, Calnon, Case, Jackson

(All voted in the affirmative)

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

Follow up Action: None

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## **8. TRAVEL REQUEST:**

**A. Motion to waive rule 4 for initial consideration** “Request from Police Chief Desmond Racicot for two Police Officers to attend the “Crisis Intervention Officer Training” in New York City, NY from January 15- 20, 2012 at a cost not to exceed \$1,667 and will be paid out of the Asset Forfeiture fund (Treasury).

By Councilor Calnon; Seconded by Councilor Case

Discussion: None

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Tiffer, Rabideau, Calnon, Case, Jackson

(All voted in the affirmative)

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

**RESOLVED:** In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves two Police Officers to attend the “Crisis Intervention Officer Training” in New York City, NY from January 15- 20, 2012 at a cost not to exceed \$1,667 and will be paid out of the Asset Forfeiture fund (Treasury).

By Councilor Calnon; Seconded by Councilor Case

Discussion:

**Councilor Carpenter** asked did we just find out that this training was available or did you just decide that you wanted to send them.

**Police Chief Desmond Racicot** said this has been planned for awhile it was my mistake I thought the paperwork was done.

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Tiffer, Rabideau, Calnon, Case, Jackson

(All voted in the affirmative)

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

Follow up Action: None

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## **9. RESOLUTIONS FOR INITIAL CONSIDERATION:**

1. Request from Kevin Farrington City Engineer to advertise for bids for Contract #2012-01 "New 2012 1750 GPM Pumper for Plattsburgh Fire Department."
2. Request from Police Chief Desmond Racicot for two Police Officers to attend the "Crisis Intervention Officer Training" in New York City, NY from January 15- 20, 2012 at a cost not to exceed \$1,667 and will be paid out of the Asset Forfeiture fund (Treasury).**(Move to agenda under "Travel Requests" Letter A)**

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#### 10. NEW BUSINESS:

**Councilor Calnon** said we had several resolutions on the budget and I just really wanted to thank everybody for their hard work. There was some disappointing news in the reduction in aide to municipalities. There was some disappointing news in the costs of retirement and costs of workers compensation that we hadn't anticipated and that really raised our expenditure levels. But, we really focused on keeping the tax rate even. New York State is the second highest taxed state in the union second only to New Jersey. We can't do much about what happens at the state level or even at the county level and certainly not at the federal level. But one thing we've done here is we really been able to control, at least for the last several years, what are local taxes are on our citizens. I'm kind of proud of that. I would have liked to have had the chance to reduce the tax rate this year and had we not had some of those late bad news we might have been able to. We're going to keep after it. I think that there is a lesson here for every municipality. The real key is not by capping what your revenue is but by capping what your expenditures are. And I hope that New York State really takes that seriously as they move in to this coming year. We've already got a tax cap that's fine we're well within it. Our 1% increase in the tax levy is well under the cap the way the caps were calculated we could have gone up over 5% if we wanted to. But just because we could doesn't mean we should and I think that we all need to point with pride at a budget where there is no tax increase in 2012.

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#### 11. CLOSING PUBLIC COMMENTS:

**Kathy McCleery**, 14 Tremblay Avenue said I am a little concerned about again what is happening with our Auditing Committee or whatever you choose to call it this year. You were informed last year by the Committee on Open Government and the Department of State that this is not acceptable. This is not in conformance with the laws of the State of New York and it has to be changed. So I will again ask for the Agenda for the Auditing Committee meeting and the minutes from the last Auditing Committee meeting. Both of which are required by State law as you were told in 3 different letters.

Motion to Adjourn by Councilor Jackson; Seconded by Councilor Tiffer  
Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Tiffer, Rabideau, Calnon, Case, Jackson  
(All voted in the affirmative)

**MEETING ADJOURNED: 5:40 pm**